

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A mold for producing a silicon ingot, comprising:  
a graphite or quartz mold body having a bottom and a top having an opening and  
having an inner wall face of a shape which defines the shape of the silicon ingot produced,  
said inner wall face coated with a stucco silica layer ~~containing a~~ comprising fine fused silica  
sand having a particle size of 100-300  $\mu\text{m}$  prepared by baking at not more than 800°C.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 22, wherein the inner  
wall face of said mold is tapered from the bottom of the mold towards said opening so that  
the area of the opening becomes larger than the area of the bottom of the mold.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 22, wherein the  
interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the  
shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 23, wherein the  
interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the  
shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A mold for producing a silicon ingot, comprising:

a graphite or quartz mold body having a bottom and a top having an opening and having an inner wall face of a shape which defines the shape of the silicon ingot produced, the interior wall face of the mold coated with a stucco silica layer ~~containing~~ comprising at least one layer prepared by binding a fused silica powder with a particle size of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and a fine fused silica sand with a particle size of 100-300  $\mu\text{m}$  with a silica binder at a temperature of 800°C or less.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 26, wherein the inner wall face of said mold is tapered from the bottom of the mold towards said opening so that the area of the opening becomes larger than the area of the bottom of the mold.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 26, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The mold according to Claim 27, wherein the interior of the mold has a circular or a polygonal horizontal cross-section which defines the shape of the silicon ingot product produced.

Claim 30 (New): The mold according to Claim 22, wherein said mold further comprises, therein, said silicon ingot.

Claim 31 (New): The mold according to Claim 26, wherein said mold further comprises, therein, said silicon ingot.